

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 684

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Kalilah Allen-Harris upon being crowned Miss Black USA.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those emerging community leaders who strive to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens while bringing beauty, grace, and purpose to all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative young lady is Kalilah Allen-Harris, who was crowned Miss Black USA on June 2, 2007, in Gambia, West Africa, following her tenure as Miss Black Tennessee USA, 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant is one of the premiere pageants of this nation; it was founded in 1984 to advance educational and professional opportunities for women of African-American descent; and

WHEREAS, during her reign as Miss Black Tennessee, Ms. Harris displayed her grace and poise throughout the State, appearing at the John Merritt Classic Fashion Show and football game, Relache Spa, the African Street Festival, the Walk to Cure Diabetes, the Tennessee State University (TSU) Homecoming Parade, a benefit breakfast for Harold Ford Jr., the Little Miss AKA Pageant, the Miss Fisk Coronation, the Diabetes Expo in Atlanta, New Faces Development Classes, the University of Tennessee TIP Program Banquet, an NAACP banquet, the MBUSA Atlanta Promotional Weekend, American Diabetes Youth Foundation Youth Day, the Nashville Film Festival, and the Miss Meharry Coronation. She also gave of her time as a Mr. TSU Pageant Judge, in a series of radio interviews, and in the presentation of the American Diabetes Association license plate to Senator Diane Black and Representative Joe Armstrong; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, Miss Allen-Harris is a student at Meharry Medical College, where she is pursuing her dream of becoming a physician; and

WHEREAS, she graduated Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration; while a student there, Miss Allen-Harris participated in numerous community service and extracurricular activities, including serving as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Minority Enhancement for the University of Tennessee, and the Walter P. Taylor Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Miss Allen-Harris was also crowned Miss Homecoming 2005, received the University of Tennessee Presidential Scholar honors, was honored as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Woman of the Year in 2005, and placed First Runner-Up at the Mu Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Miss Black and Gold 2003; and

WHEREAS, her accomplishments are just as numerous at Meharry Medical College, where she is the School of Medicine's 2010 Historian, a member of the American Medical Association, the Surgery Club, the Internal Medicine Club, the Cardio-Pulmonary Club, and the Student National Medical Association; she also serves as a tutor for the CWC Tutoring Center for Somalian Refugees and volunteers for free sports physical examinations at Metro General Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Kalilah Allen-Harris has attained excellence in many diverse fields of human endeavor at a young age, from scholastic achievements and community outreach to pageant competition, and she should be specially commended and recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Kalilah Allen-Harris upon her recent coronation as Miss Black USA and wish her much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.